

**CITY OF MESA**  
**HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)**  
**Ad Hoc ISSUES RESEARCH AND ACTION TEAM (IRA)**  
March 14, 2013 Minutes

The Issues Research and Action Team of the City of Mesa met on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, at 5:00pm.  
at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 250.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap, Chair  
Lela Hinds-Peterson  
Frank Johnson  
Cliff Moon

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Andrea Arenas  
Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Heap called the meeting to order at 5:04pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to IRA.

3. Approval of the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 IRA meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to approve February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 minutes and Mr. Moon seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Sub-committee meetings to hear update, discuss and consider the following items:

- Creation of anti- harassment and non-discrimination ordinances for the City of Mesa, and best practices for community response to hate crimes.

Ms. Giese advised that copies of the City of Phoenix amended non-discrimination ordinance has been supplied for their review. Mr. Moon provided the members with his research on verbiage from an ordinance in Boulder, Colorado. The IRA members agreed to review similar ordinances from Arizona cities that they will review during the next meeting. Ms. Heap stated that she will also look into the philosophical implications of the ordinance. Ms. Giese suggested that they can arrange for presenters to speak on the topic during a meeting. The IRA members agreed that having a representative from another city or government entity speak on necessity of the ordinance and demonstrate what has been done in other cities would be beneficial. The members also requested that staff obtain some direction from the legal office on what type of research is helpful when building an ordinance.

- Pending report on Domestic Partner Benefits.

Ms. Giese advised the members that the Human Resources Director is scheduled to make a presentation during the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013 City Council Study Session regarding Domestic Partner Benefits.

5. Hear update and take action on City of Mesa being an employer of choice for veterans.

Ms. Heap informed the members that a letter will be sent to the Mayor advising of the progress and recommendations from the Veterans Task Force. One of the recommendations is to provide preferential treatment during the hiring process for veterans. Ms. Heap stated that they are to do research on the verbiage in order to take action in the future.

6. Discuss and consider future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

Ms. Heap advised that the North Pointe I HOA will be holding their annual meeting on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and has asked that IRA make a presentation on hate crimes.

- Next meeting will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 5pm.

7. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,  
Diversity Program Administrator